

REMARKS

With this response, 37 claims are pending. No claims have been added or cancelled.

Claim 7 has been rewritten to remove the misplaced use of the word "of." It is believed that no
5 new matter has been added by way of this amendment.

It is not believed that any fees are necessary at this time. However, in the event fees are required, Applicants authorize the Commissioner to take any necessary fees, including those under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17, from deposit account 50-0913.

10 I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

A Brief Review of One Embodiment of Applicants' Invention

In one embodiment of Applicants' invention, a table game system is provided that allows a player to place a side wager in conjunction with a primary game. The use of a video display, such as an LCD screen, may allow for dynamic side wager presentations to be presented to the
15 player, increasing player interest and therefore encouraging players to play longer and generating more revenue for the gaming establishment. *See* pages 5, 7, and 45.

Applicants teach that the video display can be used for a variety of purposes, and be connected to a variety of video sources. For example, the video display may show attract video, sporting, news, or other video entertainment, text, or banners. *See* page 44. The video content
20 source may be sources such as a VCR, television, cable video source, DVD, or a hard disk drive. *See, e.g.,* page 32.

When used as part of the side wager game, the video display may display animation sequences relating to the side wager game. For example, Applicants disclose a game called

“follow the queen” where images of three cards are displayed and animated on the video screen.

See pages 44-45.

Rejection Over Lindo

5 The Office rejected claims 1, 2, 5, and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,575,834 to Lindo (hereinafter, “Lindo”). It appears that Lindo purports to suggest “A system and method for playing a table type game such as roulette or dice in an interactive manner at a site remote from the actual casino table [where the game is played].” Abstract. Figure 1 appears to show a video camera (14) to record a table game. No video terminal is indicated as adjacent to the game tables. Rather, figure 1 contains the
10 annotation “TO REMOTE TERMINALS.”

Claim 1 of Applicants’ application specifically requires “a video display mounted adjacent to the gaming table whereby each player among the plurality of game players may simultaneously view the video display while at the game player locations.” Because Lindo does not teach a video display mounted adjacent the gaming table, it does not meet all limitations of
15 Applicants’ claims and does not anticipate them.

There are additional limitations that are not met by Lindo. For example, another limitation of claim 1 is “a plurality of video content sources.” It appears that the only video content source suggested by Lindo is the video camera transmitting video of the table game. Applicants disclose an invention that can display video from content sources such as computer
20 hard drives, live cameras, DVD players, televisions, and the like. There is simply no teaching of this in Lindo. Because Lindo does not teach all limitations of Applicants’ claims, Applicants respectfully request the Office to withdraw the §102(e) rejections of claims 1, 2, 5, and 6.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office rejected claims 3, 4, and 7-37 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Lindo in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,856,787 to Itkis (hereinafter, "Itkis").

Itkis purports to suggest "a distributed game network comprising a master game device
5 and a number of slave game devices." Itkis states that "The slave game devices executes in real time (play) concurrently a number of menu-selectable card and chance games, such as bingo, keno, poker, blackjack, and the like." Col 1, lns. 40-53.

The Office appears to be relying on Lindo as allegedly suggesting a system computing server, a video content distribution network, and a plurality of video displays in communication
10 with the system computer server, the video displays being mounted adjacent to at least one gaming table. As previously discussed Lindo does not appear to suggest a plurality of video content sources. In addition, Lindo does not use video displays adjacent to a game table; rather, Lindo specifically states that the video displays are remote from the game table.

Claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 1, which was discussed above. As previously
15 discussed, claim 1 is allowable over Lindo. Therefore claims 3 and 4 are allowable by virtue of depending from an allowable claim.

The above discussion now will be applied specifically to each of the rejected independent claims. The relevant portions of claim 7 are:

- 20 B. a video content distribution network in communication with the system computing server and in dynamically selectable communication with a plurality of video content sources;
- C. a plurality of video displays in communication with the system computing server through the video content distribution network, each said video display being mounted adjacent to at least
25 one gaming table...

As discussed above, Lindo fails to teach or suggest a video content distribution network in communication with a plurality of video content sources. In addition, Lindo does not teach or suggest a video display mounted adjacent a gaming table, but specifically requires that the video displays be remote from the gaming table.

5 The relevant portions of claim 13 are reproduced below:

a video system associated with the first and second card gaming tables and including:

- 10 i. a first video display apparatus in communication with the computer network and mounted in association with the first card gaming table whereby a first game player at the first game table may view first card gaming table side-wager indicia on the video display apparatus;
- 15 ii. a second video display apparatus in communication with the computer network and mounted in association with the second card gaming table whereby a second game player at the second card game table may view second card game table side-wager indicia on the video display apparatus;
- 20 iii. a video content serving apparatus in communication with multiple video content sources and with the first video display apparatus and the second video display apparatus....

Lindo fails to teach or suggest a video content serving apparatus in communication with multiple video content sources. In addition, because the video displays of Lindo are remote from the gaming tables, Lindo does not teach or suggest a first card gaming table whereby a first game player may view the video display apparatus.

25

The relevant portions of independent claim 14 are reproduced below:

- 30 B. providing a video display simultaneously viewable by the one or more game players at the one game table;
- C. providing at least one game player with the opportunity to also participate in a supplemental game conducted at least in part in conjunction with supplemental game video content displayed on the video display...

35 Lindo does not provide for a video display simultaneously viewable by the one or more game players at the game table.

The relevant portions of claim 20 are reproduced below:

5 B. providing a plurality of video displays, each of which video displays being mounted in association with at least one game table among the plurality of game tables and viewable by said one or more game players at said one game table;

 C. providing at least one game player with the opportunity to also participate in a supplemental game conducted at least in part in conjunction with video content displayed on the video display viewable to the at least one game player; and

10 Lindo does not teach or suggest video displays mounted in association with a game table and viewable by players at the game table.

 Applicants further believe that Itkis fails to teach or suggest the elements of Applicants' invention for which Itkis is asserted. In particular, independent claims 7, 13, 14, and 15 refer to a "supplemental" game. The Office alleges that Lindo fails to teach, but Itkis provides, "at least one game player with opportunity to also participate in a *supplemental* game conducted at least in part in conjunction with video *content displayed* on the *video display* viewable to at least one game player." Page 5 (emphasis in original). Applicants previously presented the following argument which was not rebutted or traversed by the Office in the previous Office Action.

20 As used in Applicants' disclosure, a "supplemental" game is one that is used in conjunction with a primary game. Applicants state that a "supplemental" game is "**a bonus or side wager game.**" Page 7. Applicants teach that the side wager game "supplements" the primary game to increase the level of excitement for the player and provide the player with more ways to win. *See* page 45.

25 As one example of a supplemental game, a player might play a primary game of blackjack that offers a supplemental game. *See, e.g.,* pages 43-45. The player might make a bet on the outcome of the primary game and, optionally, a bet that a certain outcome will occur. If the qualifying outcome in the primary game occurs, the player is given the opportunity to play

the supplemental game. Both the primary game and the supplemental game are part of one round of game play.

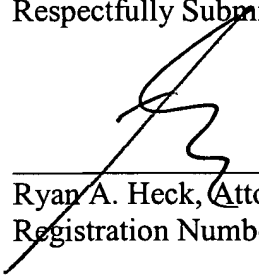
Applicants respectfully assert that Itkis does not teach or suggest a "supplemental" game because each primary game in Itkis, although played concurrently, does not really "supplement" anything. Rather, each game in Itkis appears to be an independent, primary game.

Because Itkis and Lindo do not, alone or in combination, teach or suggest all elements of Applicants' claims, they do not render Applicants' claims obvious. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Office to withdraw the §103(a) rejections of claims 3, 4, and 7-37.

CONCLUSION

For all of the above reasons, the Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the application or this Amendment B and Remarks, the Examiner is encouraged to call the Applicants' attorney, Ryan A. Heck, at (775) 826-6160.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ryan A. Heck, Attorney for Applicant
Registration Number: 51,795

February 3, 2004